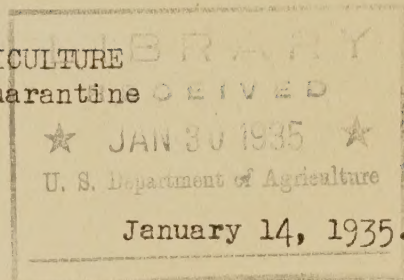


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.



NARCISSUS BULB QUARANTINE REVOKED

Secretary Wallace announced today that domestic quarantine No. 62, issued July 1926 to prevent the interstate spread of certain injurious bulb pests, will be revoked, effective April 1, 1935.

Following the restrictions on the importation of narcissus bulbs, which were placed in effect in January 1926 for the purpose of preventing the further introduction of certain foreign bulb pests, it was deemed advisable to establish a domestic narcissus bulb quarantine to prevent the further dissemination of these pests, namely, the bulb eelworm, the greater bulb fly, and the lesser bulb fly, to areas not then known to be infested; and to prevent reintroduction into areas in which attempts were being made to effect eradication. This quarantine became effective in July 1926 and was amended in June 1932 to eliminate the lesser bulb fly, which had proved to be of secondary importance as a pest of narcissus bulbs.

Attempts at general eradication have not been successful, the pests occurring year after year in most areas where such attempts have been made. Furthermore, both the eelworm and the greater bulb fly have become more widespread, now being established in commercial narcissus-bulb plantings in many States in addition to the ones in which they were known to occur at the time the quarantine was established.

These pests attack various native hosts other than narcissus bulbs, the bulb eelworm having been determined in over fifty native plants--both cultivated and wild--which were submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture for examination from various localities in 32 different States.

In view of the now known wide distribution in the United States of the bulb eelworm and the greater bulb fly, and of the wide range of hosts attacked, especially by the eelworm, thus making their eradication apparently impracticable, as well as the wide occurrence of certain other pests of narcissus bulbs, it is felt that Federal quarantine regulations cannot longer serve the purpose for which they were originally intended, and their continuance therefore is not only no longer justifiable but, since this problem is now one best adapted to State control, the existence of the type of Federal quarantine regulations now in force tends to obstruct effective State action.

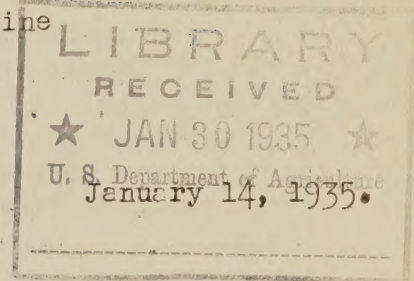
The removal of this quarantine leaves to interested States freedom of action in the establishment of such State restrictions as they may deem advisable.

LEE A. STRONG,

Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

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UNLIMITED ENTRY OF FOREIGN NARCISSUS BULBS AUTHORIZED
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 15, 1936

At the conclusion of the plant quarantine conference held by the Department on May 15, 1922, for the purpose of considering the classes of plants to be admitted without limit as to quantity and utilization under Regulation 3 of Quarantine 37, the Nursery Stock, Plant, and Seed Quarantine, it was agreed that the bulb item under this regulation should be considered in detail at a conference to be held in the fall of that year. This conference with the importers was held on October 30, 1922, and on December 22, 1922, it was announced that the unlimited entry of narcissus bulbs would be authorized for a period not to exceed 3 years, beginning January 1, 1923. In making this announcement the Department stated: "Information derived through inspection of import shipments of bulbs since 1919 indicates that there is a considerable element of danger in such importations in that they carry insect pests, the risk of establishment of which in this country cannot be entirely eliminated by inspection and disinfection. That risk increases directly with the volume, variety, and diversity of origin of the imports. Continuance of this risk through such imports is, therefore, only justified for such reasonable time as may be required to establish the commercial production of the several important species of bulbs in this country."

The principal pests responsible for this conclusion were the bulb eelworm, Anguillulina dipsaci, formerly called Tylenchus dipsaci, the greater bulb fly, Merodon equestris, and the lesser bulb fly, Eumerus strigatus, all of which at that time appeared to be restricted as to distribution in this country.

On November 16, 1925, a third public conference was held for the full consideration of the bulb subject --- the fourth, if the original hearing of 1918 which was the basis of Quarantine 37, is included.

After careful consideration of the facts developed at this conference, it was publicly announced that the restrictions on the entry of narcissus bulbs authorized 3 years previously would go into effect January 1, 1926. In making this announcement the Department stated: "The evidence available at present indicates that none of the three important pests usually associated with imported narcissus bulbs has yet become so well established in the country as to make control measures useless. A review of the present situation indicates that even in the districts where they have gained a foothold they may be materially controlled and possibly eradicated, especially in the case of the two bulb flies. We are going to give these districts a chance to clean up. They have promised to do so and the Department will insist that this be done at the earliest date possible."

To aid in the effort to control and possibly eradicate these three pests the Department on July 3, 1926, promulgated Domestic Narcissus Bulb Quarantine No. 62. As an additional safeguard to prevent further distribution of these pests in this country, all shipments of narcissus bulbs imported under permit in limited quantities for propagation purposes were given the hot-water treatment under the supervision of inspectors of this Department. From time to time certain varieties were rejected because of their availability in this country, the theory being that it was unwise to accept further risk of introducing the pests in question with these varieties.

On January 29, 1931, a conference was held to review the plant pest situation with respect to narcissus bulbs and to consider the advisability of modifying the present restrictions on the entry from foreign countries and interstate movement of these bulbs. Consideration was also given to this subject at the conference held October 25, 1933, to reexamine the underlying principles involved in the interpretation and enforcement of the Nursery Stock, Plant, and Seed Quarantine No. 37.

The above briefly outlines the history of the various steps leading to the present restrictions on narcissus bulbs.

The bulb eelworm is now known to be cosmopolitan in distribution, attacking some 240 odd hosts, 57 of which have been found to be infested in the United States. The hosts in this country include bulbs, tubers, wild and native plants. Despite the fact that no special effort has been made to determine the distribution of the bulb eelworm in the United States, it is of record as occurring in 32 States and it is reasonable to assume that it could be located in others if an effort were made. Not only does the bulb eelworm have a much wider distribution and a much greater host list than was thought to be the case when the restrictions were placed, but it also has been found to infest hyacinths, tulips, and lily-of-the-valley pips, all of which are now and have since 1919 been admitted under permit and inspection in unlimited quantities for any purpose. Furthermore, it has been taken in the following vegetables: Carrots, onions, garlic, cipollino (Muscari), which are admitted from foreign countries under the Fruit and Vegetable Quarantine No. 56.

The records of field inspections made in 1933 in accordance with the provisions of Quarantine No. 62 (the results of the 1934 inspections are not yet available) resulted in the finding of the bulb eelworm in commercial narcissus plantings in 15 States (California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington) which comprise for the most part the principal narcissus producing areas. In addition to the records for the year 1933, the bulb eelworm had previously been reported on properties in Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Utah, and Wisconsin.

The greater bulb fly has been taken in 12 States and the field inspection made in 1933 revealed its presence in commercial narcissus plantings in 8 States (California, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington). In previous years it was collected in Illinois, Rhode Island, Utah, and Virginia. In addition to narcissus it has been collected in imported hyacinths and cipollino.

Information which has been assembled in recent years indicates that the lesser bulb fly is not the pest it was believed to be at the time the restrictions were placed on foreign and domestic narcissus bulbs and as a consequence in the administration of Quarantine No. 62 it is now disregarded. It has been reported to occur in 23 States. In addition to the narcissus it has been collected in foreign shipments of hyacinths, lily, iris, cipolino, and onions.

The bulb eelworm and the greater bulb fly, not including the lesser bulb fly which as previously stated is not now regarded as a pest, despite the restrictions, foreign and domestic, which have been in effect since 1926, now have a wider distribution in this country than was known to be the case at that time. Both of these pests also arrive from foreign countries in bulbs which are admitted in unlimited quantities under Regulation 3 of Quarantine 37. Obviously, if the present restrictions on narcissus bulbs were to be continued they should be applied with equal force to all other bulbs and plants known to be hosts of the bulb eelworm and the greater bulb fly. In view of the known distribution of these pests in the United States, the wide variety of hosts attacked with the resultant hopelessness of bringing about their eradication, especially the eelworm, this action is regarded as biologically unsound from a plant quarantine standpoint. In point of fact the evidence at hand clearly indicates that the establishment of these pests in this country is now so widespread and so impossible of eradication by any reasonable means that such reinfestation as may take place with unlimited importations under permit and inspection at the time of importation of certified bulbs will have no bearing on their control. In other words, the opportunity of eradication of these pests has passed. Moreover, pests equally as important, if not more so, than the ones which prompted the placing of restrictions are now widely distributed in this country. In view of this condition the unlimited entry of narcissus bulbs under permit and subject to inspection beginning December 15, 1936, is authorized. All such importations, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 7 of Quarantine 37 shall be accompanied by a certificate certifying that they have been thoroughly inspected at the time of packing and found or believed to be free from injurious plant diseases and insect pests. Inspections at ports of entry will be made to prevent this country being made the dumping ground of infested or infected narcissus bulbs, and any such shipments offered for entry will be rejected.

Deferring the effective date for two years is for the purpose of permitting those adjustments made necessary by the removal of the restrictions and is in accord with the procedure followed in 1922 in announcing the placing of restrictions to be effective three years later.

LEE A. STRONG,

Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

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